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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/560,800	05/12/2006	Jiming Li	0815-053671	7396
28289	7590	01/18/2008		
THE WEBB LAW FIRM, P.C. 700 KOPPERS BUILDING 436 SEVENTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA 15219			EXAMINER	
			PATEL, VISHAL A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3676	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			01/18/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/560,800	Applicant(s) LI ET AL.
	Examiner Vishal Patel	Art Unit 3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2007.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 2, 2/3, 2/4 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2, lines 1-6, “the shaft...sections”, this limitations is unclear in view of the limitations in claim 1, “a plurality...teeth”. It is unclear how many plurality of teeth the claims is claiming (e.g. unclear if pluralities of annular teeth in claim 2 are same as a plurality of teeth in claim 1).

Claim 3, lines 1-3, “a smooth abradable coating on surface of the stator”, unclear what applicant is trying to claim in view of claim 1, lines 5-7. Similar to claim 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 1, 1/3, 1/4 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhou et al (US. 6,499,742) in view of Jude (US. 881,474).

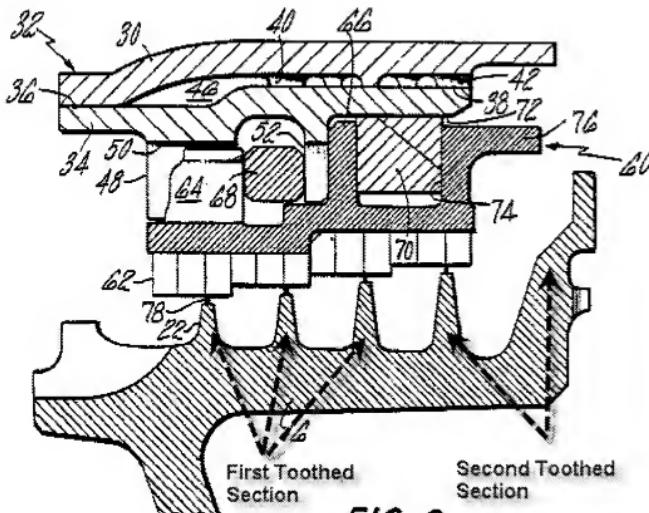
Zhou discloses an apparatus having a shaft with plurality of teeth (e.g. 308 and 310), a stator having abradable surface of member (e.g. 400 and 450), the abradable surface (e.g. inner

surface of 400 and 450) being smooth cylindrical surface having a diameter less than the outer diameter of the teeth and providing a clearance at the tip of the teeth (this is the case before the teeth abrade the abradable material) and the stator has the smooth abradable cylindrical surface.

Zhou discloses the invention substantially as claimed above but fails to disclose the stator having swirl-reversal vanes. Jude teaches an apparatus having shaft with a tooth and a stator (A) with swirl-reversal vanes upstream in the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have the stator of Zhou to have swirl-reversal vanes that are tapered at ends or have an apex (e.g. an apex formed between one end and the curved end) as taught by Jude to provide an overflow weir for the escaping fluid (page 1, lines 81-82 of Jude).

5. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joyce et al (US. 4,820,119) in view of Jude (US. 881,474).

Joyce discloses a stator (e.g. 60) having an abradable surface that is smooth (figure 2, e.g. inner surface of 62), a shaft having a first toothed axial section (e.g. see figure below), a second toothed axial section having few teeth (see figure below) and the abradable surface and toothed sections form labyrinth seal.



Joyce discloses the invention substantially as claimed above but fails to disclose the stator having swirl-reversal vanes. Jude teaches an apparatus having shaft with a tooth and a stator (A) with swirl-reversal vanes upstream in the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have the stator of Joyce to have swirl-reversal vanes that are tapered at ends or have an apex (e.g. an apex formed between one end and the curved end or an arcuate shaped with the top is pointed in the direction of rotation of the shaft, e.g. figures 2 and 4) as taught by Jude to provide an overflow weir for the escaping fluid (page 1, lines 81-82 of Jude).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vishal Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7060. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am to 8:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer H. Gay can be reached on 571-272-7029. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/V. P./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3676

/Vishal Patel/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3676